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Pompilid wasp common in the same locality, that we may regard it as a true mimic. Dr. Williston, describing another Mydaid (*Ceratomydas fraudulentus*) from Chapada, Brazil, remarks that it shows a remarkable mimicry of certain species of *Conops*, occurring in the same region. Is it not, perhaps, likely that both the *Ceratomydas* and the *Conops* mimic some Hymenopteron?

T. D. A. COCKERELL.

Zoölogical Notes. — Mr. A. E. Shipley, of Cambridge, England, has a valuable paper on the species of the peculiar group of parasites, the Linguatulidæ, in the first number of Blanchard's *Archives de Parasitologie*.

In the first number of the thirty-second volume of the *Jenaische Zeitschrift* are three papers dealing with the anatomy of the whales. Dr. Friedrich Jungklaus describes the stomach in the young and in some cases of the adult of six species of Cetacea. Among his conclusions he finds a striking difference between the stomachs of the toothed and the whalebone whales, that of the toothed whales differing far more from the normal mammalian whales than does that of the mystacocœtes. On the other hand, the resemblances between the two types are regarded as the result of convergence. Otto Müller discusses the alterations which the respiratory organs have undergone in the adaptation of these animals for an aquatic life, some other aquatic mammals being introduced for comparison. Wilhelm Dandt discusses the urogenital apparatus of the Cetacea. He concludes that the great development of the kidneys is due to the watery nature of the food, since in the absence of sweat glands all water must be eliminated by the lungs and kidneys. The strongly marked lobulation of the kidneys is secondary, not primitive. In the fœtus the penis is external, but it becomes internal during embryonic life. The accounts in these three papers go far towards supporting the thesis that the Cetacea is a group of polyphyletic origin, and their resemblances those of convergence.

Proceedings of the Biological Society of Washington, vol. xii, pp. 85–114, April 30, 1898, contains Bailey, V.: Descriptions of Eleven New Species and Subspecies of Voles. Bangs, O.: A New Raccoon from Nassau Island, Bahamas; Description of a New Fox from Santa Marta, Columbia; A New Marine Opossum from Margarita Island. Merriam, C. H.: The Earliest Generic Name for the North American Deer, with Descriptions of Five New Species and Subspecies; Descriptions of Two New Subgenera, and Three New Species of *Microtus* from Mexico and Guatemala; Descriptions of Twenty New

Species, and a New Subgenus of *Peromyscus* from Mexico and Guatemala; A New Genus (*Neotomodon*), and Three New Species of Marine Rodents from the Mountains of Southern Mexico. Miller, J. S., Jr.: A New Rabbit from Margarita Island, Venezuela. Palmer, T. S.: Notes on the Nomenclature of the Cheiroptera.

BOTANY.

Pfeffer's Physiology of Plants.¹ — Only the first of the two volumes of Pfeffer's *Pflanzenphysiologie* has yet appeared, the second being still in preparation. So thoroughly is this book being rewritten that it is very likely that the translations of the first volume — the French translation to be issued by a Paris publisher unaided by any subvention, I believe, and the English one to be issued by the Clarendon Press of Oxford — will be out before the second volume of the German edition is ready.

The plan of the work is the same as that of the first edition, the author confining himself to pure physiology, instead of enlarging the scope of the book to include that branch of physiology, œcology, or making more than passing allusions to the applications in agriculture, brewing, medicine, and surgery, of facts discovered and elucidated by plant physiologists. The book is a handbook, not a textbook; a critical review of the contributions to plant physiology, and a statement of the facts as they appear in the light of past discoveries and present hypotheses. It is by no means a compilation, for in almost every part of the field Pfeffer has worked, or led his students to work, fruitfully. This fact lends additional value to the critical discussions of the work of other and sometimes disagreeing investigators, and to the appreciation of the difficulties in the way of making experiments, and of drawing conclusions therefrom, — an appreciation which gives deeper insight into a problem as well and lends patience to its discussion.

In estimating the value of the book, for the facts, new and old, brought together for the first time in it, account must be made in equal amount of the skill and clearness with which defects in argument, faults in conclusion, and overzeal in theorizing are pointed out.

¹ *Pflanzenphysiologie*. Ein Handbuch der Lehre vom Stoffwechsel und Kraftwechsel in der Pflanze. Von Dr. W. Pfeffer. Zweite völlig umgearbeitete Auflage. Bd. I, Stoffwechsel. Leipzig, 1897, Wilhelm Engelmann.